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(54) **BACKUP POWER COMMUNICATION**

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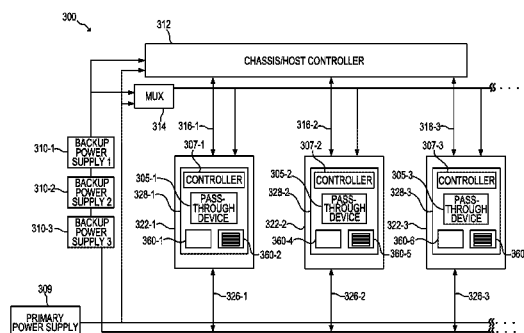
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Example implementations relate to backup power commu-  
nication. For example, a system for backup power commu-  
nication can include a shared backup power supply coupled  
to a node, a plurality of loads supported by the node, and a  
pass-through device to support multi-master communication  
between the shared backup power supply and the plurality of  
loads.

**20 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets**



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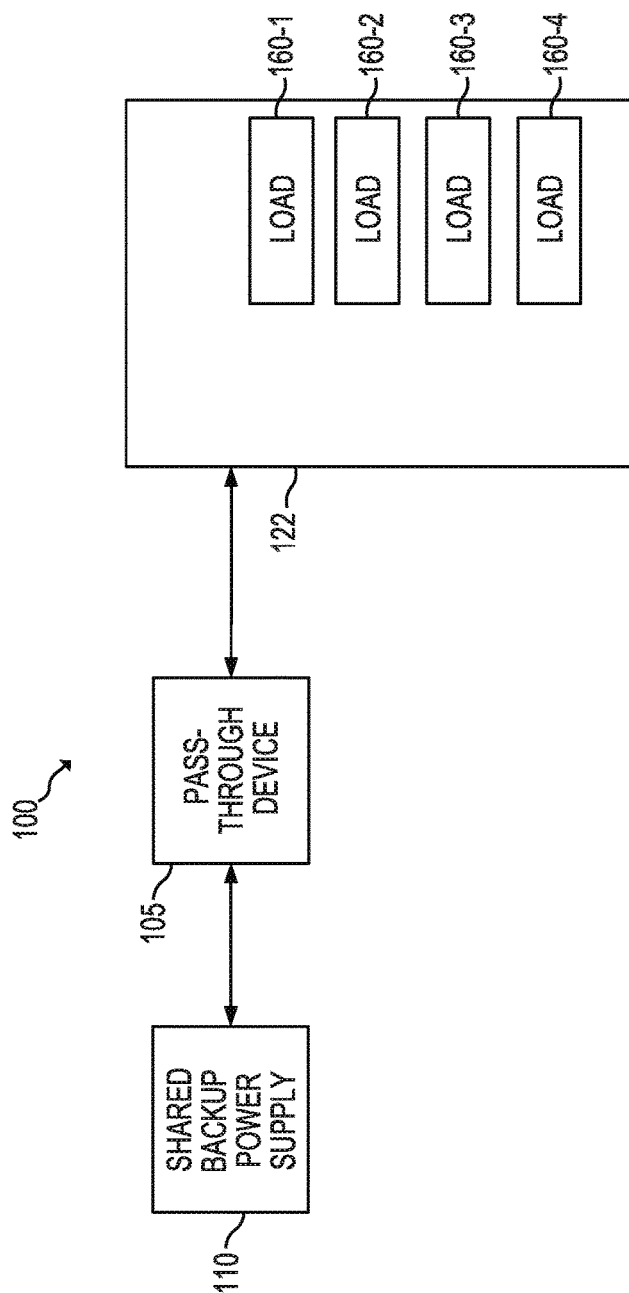


FIG. 1

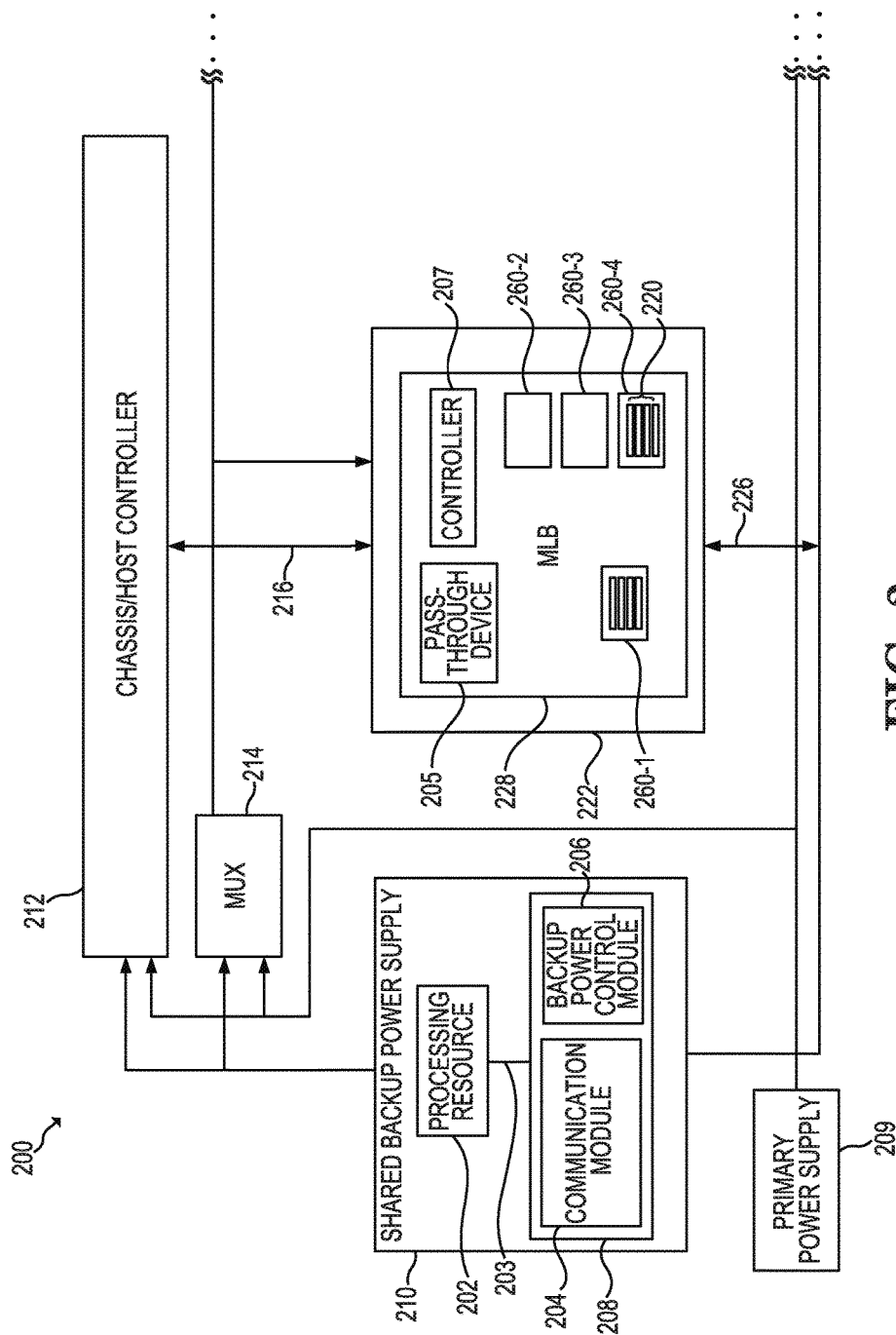
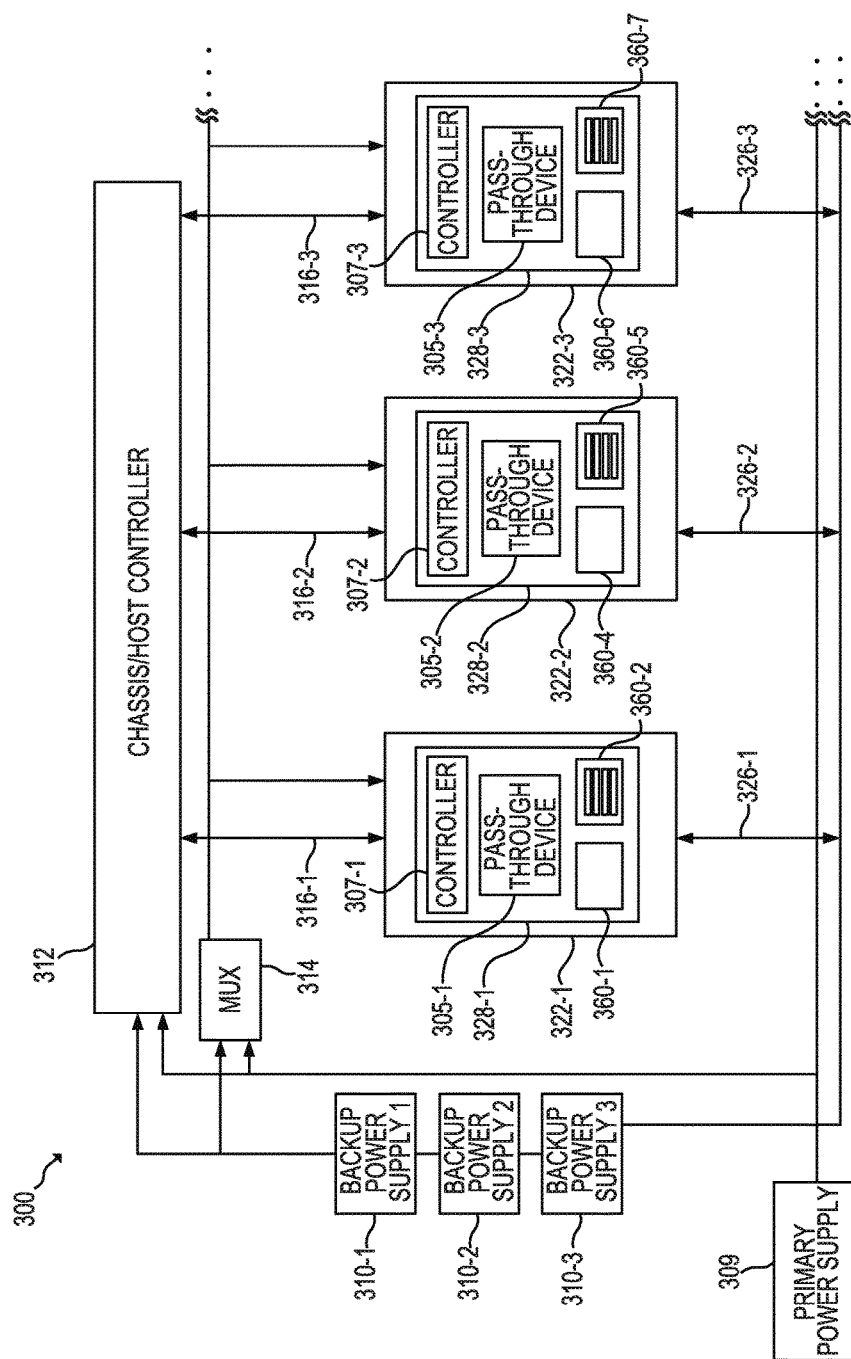
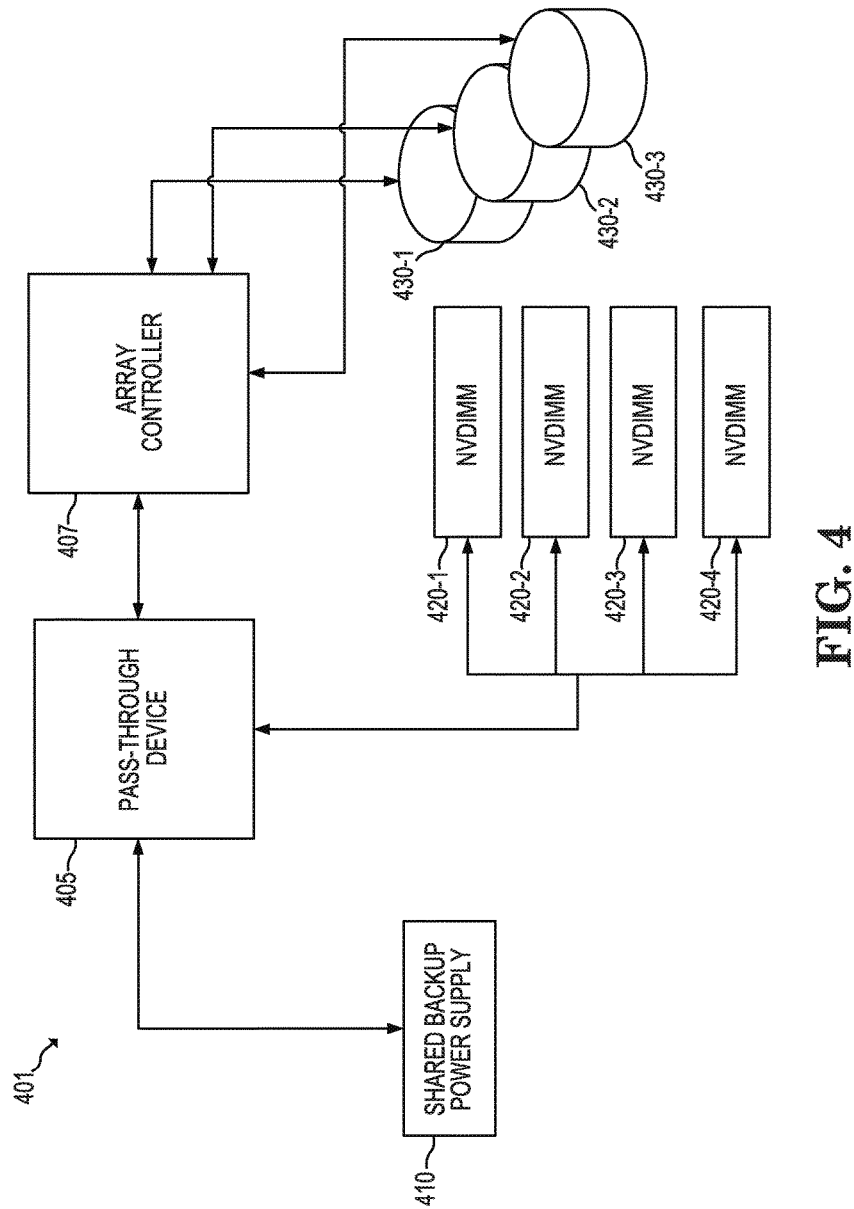


FIG. 2



**FIG. 3**



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**BACKUP POWER COMMUNICATION****BACKGROUND**

As reliance on computing systems continues to grow, so too does the demand for reliable power systems and back-up schemes for these computing systems. Servers, for example, may provide architectures for backing up data to flash or persistent memory as well as back-up power sources for powering this back-up of data after the loss of power. Backup power supplies may sometimes include energy components such as capacitors or batteries.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

FIG. 1 illustrates a block diagram of an example of a system for backup power communication, according to the present disclosure;

FIG. 2 illustrates a detailed block diagram of an example of a system for backup power communication, according to the present disclosure;

FIG. 3 illustrates a block diagram of an example of a system for backup power communication, the system having a plurality of shared backup power supplies, according to the present disclosure; and

FIG. 4 illustrates a flow diagram of a communication path between a plurality of loads and a shared backup power supply, according to the present disclosure.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

A computing data storage system can include a plurality of nodes that support a plurality of loads. The nodes can be a plurality of servers, for example. A plurality of loads can include storage controllers or devices associated with the servers. For example, a load can include cache memory, dual inline memory modules (DIMMs), Non-Volatile Dual In-Line Memory Modules (NVDIMMs), and/or array control logic, among other storage controllers and/or devices associated with the servers. A computing data storage system can include a backup power system operatively coupled to the number of nodes to support the number of loads in an event of a removal of a primary power supply. The power system can include a backup power controller module that determines a number of loads that are to be protected with backup power from the backup power supply, and a backup power communication module that communicates backup power information from the backup power supply and the number of loads, using a multi-master communication protocol. As used herein, to be protected by the backup power supply can refer to the backup power supply providing battery backup power in order for data to be moved from cache memory to non-volatile memory.

A removal of a primary power supply can be scheduled or un-scheduled. For instance, a scheduled removal of the primary power supply can be the result of scheduled maintenance on the number of nodes and/or the number of loads. A scheduled removal of the primary power supply can be an intentional power down of the number of nodes and/or the number of loads to add and/or remove nodes to a chassis and/or network connected to a primary power supply. In another example, a scheduled removal of the primary power supply can be an intentional power down to add and/or remove one or more loads to or from one or more nodes.

An un-scheduled primary power supply removal can be a failure (e.g., an unintentional loss of power to the number of nodes and/or loads from the primary power source) in the

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primary power supply. An un-scheduled primary power supply removal can occur when, for example, the primary power supply fails momentarily and/or for an extended period of time.

It may be desirable to move data from cache memory in the number of nodes to non-volatile memory upon the removal of a primary power supply. However, moving data from cache memory to non-volatile memory can involve a power supply. A backup power supply can be a secondary power supply that is used to provide power for moving data from cache memory to non-volatile memory when the primary power is removed. Further, the backup power supply can be a shared backup power supply, in that the shared backup power supply associated with a particular node is shared among a plurality of loads associated with that node.

Providing backup power for moving data from cache memory to non-volatile memory may include using a Base-board Management Controller (BMC) unit to manage communication between the backup power supply and the number of loads. In such examples, the BMC unit can configure the shared backup power supply, discover all loads downstream from the shared backup power supply that are to be protected by the shared backup power supply, and confirm whether the shared backup power supply is capable of providing backup power for the discovered loads. In addition, the BMC unit can signal to the discovered loads, when the shared backup power supply is adequately charged. As used herein, an adequate charge of the shared backup power supply refers to a level of power stored in the shared backup power supply (e.g., a threshold) that is capable of providing a backup power supply to a specified number of loads.

In contrast, in accordance with examples of the present disclosure, a pass-through device supporting a multi-master communication protocol can enable the shared backup power supply to communicate directly with the number of loads. As used herein, a multi-master communication protocol refers to an environment, such as a server environment, where more than one master component controls the actions of the slave components. Enabling the shared backup power supply to communicate directly with the number of loads using the pass-through device and multi-master communication protocol, allows for more efficient handling of error communication between the shared backup power supply and the number of loads, as well as decreased time to configure the shared backup power supply to provide backup power for the number of loads.

FIG. 1 illustrates a block diagram of an example of a system **100** for backup power communication according to the present disclosure. As illustrated in FIG. 1, the system **100** can include a shared backup power supply **110**, a pass-through device **105**, and a node **122** coupled to the pass-through device. While FIG. 1 illustrates the pass-through device **105** as a separate component from the node **122**, examples are not so limited. The pass-through device **105** can be located on the node **122**, as discussed further in relation to FIG. 2 and FIG. 3. As illustrated in FIG. 1, the node **122** can support a plurality of loads (e.g., load **160-1**, load **160-2**, load **160-3**, and load **160-4**, collectively referred to herein as loads **160**). For instance, the node **122** can support a plurality of storage controllers and/or a plurality of storage devices such as NVDIMMs.

The pass-through device **105**, as used herein, is a device that supports a multi-master communication between the shared backup power supply **110** and the plurality of loads **160**. In other words, the pass-through device **105** can support a communications protocol where the pass-through

device **105** and the shared backup power supply **110** are master components of the system **100** and the loads **160** are slave components of the system **100**. In some examples, the pass-through device **105** can be a BMC unit. The BMC unit can monitor the physical state of the node **122**, and measure and report on internal physical parameters such as temperature, cooling fan speeds, power status, and operating system status, among other parameters. Thereby, the pass-through device can be a master component for the system **100**. As used herein, a master component is a component of the system **100** that has unidirectional control over one or more other components of the system **100**. As used herein, a slave component is a component of the system **100** that is controlled by a master component.

In accordance with examples of the present disclosure, the shared backup power supply **110** can also be a master component. The shared backup power supply **110** can use communication paths between the shared backup power supply **110** and the loads **160** to perform a number of functions, including setup and management of the loads **160**. For instance, the shared backup power supply **110** can communicate with the loads **160** a sequence in which backup power is to be provided to the loads **160**.

Referring to FIG. 1, load **160-1** can communicate to the shared backup power supply **110**, that the load **160-1** will use 4 watts for battery backup. Load **160-2** can communicate to the shared backup power supply **110**, that the load **160-2** will use 60 watts for battery backup. In response, the shared backup power supply **110** can communicate to load **160-2** to remain powered off until load **160-1** has completed backup procedures. As used herein, backup procedures can refer to moving data from cache memory to non-volatile memory.

In such a manner, the shared backup power supply **110** can communicate with the loads **160** a sequence in which backup power is to be provided to the loads **160**. In some examples, each of the loads **160** can communicate to the shared backup power supply **110** an amount of power for backup procedures per a unit of time, for instance, in joules.

Alternatively and/or additionally, the pass-through device **105** can be system firmware, such as Basic Input/Output System (BIOS) implemented using processor executable instructions, and can provide initialization and testing of the hardware components of the node **122**. BIOS can also load an operating system for the node **122** when it is powered on. In either event, the pass-through device **105** can support a communications protocol where both the shared backup power supply **110** and the pass-through device **105** act as master components of the system **100**. In some examples, the multi-master communication protocol can be a management component transport protocol (MCTP), however, examples are not so limited and the multi-master communication protocol can be other protocols designed to provide monitoring and control functions inside the system **100**.

While examples provided herein include BIOS and a BMC unit as examples of a pass-through device, examples of the present disclosure are not so limited. Other system components and system devices can be used to perform the various examples described in this disclosure. Furthermore, while specific examples are outlined herein, describing actions performed by BIOS and by a BMC unit, examples are not limited. Actions described as being performed by BIOS can be performed by a BMC unit and/or other types of pass-through devices and vice versa.

FIG. 2 illustrates a detailed block diagram of an example of a system **200** for backup power communication according to the present disclosure. FIG. 2 includes the shared backup

power supply **210**, a multiplexer (MUX) **214**, a chassis/host controller **212**, and a node **222**.

As illustrated in FIG. 2, the node **222** can host a plurality of loads (e.g., loads **260-1**, **260-2**, **260-3**, **260-4**, collectively referred to herein as loads **260**). For instance, the node **222** can include a plurality of devices, such as local memory or data storage (e.g., referred generally as memory). The memory may contain volatile and non-volatile memory, e.g., cache and non-volatile memory dual inline memory modules (NVDIMM). Thus, each memory in the node **222** can contain a plurality of NVDIMM slots **220**. Each NVDIMM slot among the number of NVDIMM slots **220** can provide a load to the system **200**. Node **222** can include other devices such as cache memory, DIMMs, array control logic, and storage controllers, among other devices associated with the node **222**, and each of the devices associated with the node **222** can provide a load to the system **200**. For instance, load **260-2** can be provided by a storage controller, whereas each NVDIMM slot among the number of NVDIMM slots **220** can provide load **260-1**. In some examples, the node **222** can also include a control logic unit (not illustrated in FIG. 2).

The shared backup power supply **210** can include a processing resource **202** connected via a connection **203** to a memory resource **208**, e.g., a computer-readable medium (CRM), machine readable medium (MRM), database, etc. In some examples, memory resource **208** may be a non-transitory storage medium and/or a non-transitory machine readable medium, where the term “non-transitory” does not encompass transitory propagating signals.

The memory resource **208** can include a plurality of computing modules. The example of FIG. 2 shows a communication module **204** and a backup power control module **206**. As used herein, a computing module can include program code, e.g., computer executable instructions, hardware, firmware, and/or logic. But a computing module at least includes instructions executable by the processing resource **202**, e.g., in the form of modules, to perform particular actions, tasks, and functions described in more detail herein in reference to FIGS. 3 and 4.

Instructions associated with a particular module, e.g., communication module **204** and backup power control module **206**, when executed by the processing resource **202** can also be referred to and function collectively as a component and/or computing engine. As used herein, an engine can include hardware firmware, logic, and/or executable instructions. But an engine at least includes hardware e.g., logic in the form of an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC), to perform particular actions, tasks and functions described in more detail herein in reference to FIGS. 3 and 4.

Engines and/or the number of modules, e.g., communication module **204** and backup power control module **206** shown in FIG. 2, can be sub-engines/modules of other engines/modules and/or combined to perform particular actions, tasks, and functions within a particular system and/or computing device. Engines and/or modules described herein can be located in a single system and/or computing device or reside in separate distinct locations in a distributed computing environment, e.g., cloud computing environment.

The system **200** can perform a number of functions and operations as described in FIGS. 3, and 4, and include the apparatus and methods for backup power communication as described herein.

The shared backup power supply **210** can be a battery hat is external to the node **222** and external to the chassis/host controller **212** supporting the node **222**. The shared backup power supply **210** can provide power to the node **222**. The



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shared backup power supply **210** can support different chassis/host controllers, e.g., not shown, and different MUXs (not shown) to support a plurality of nodes on different chassis.

The node **222** can include a main logic board (MLB) **228**, and the MLB **228** can include a pass-through device **205**. As described in relation to FIG. 1, the pass-through device **205** (e.g., the pass-through device **105** illustrated in FIG. 1), can be internal to, or external to, the node **222**. Further, the pass-through device **205** can be system firmware, such as a BMC unit and/or BIOS. The MLB **228** components can allow the node **222** to communicate with the shared backup power supply **210** and the chassis/host controller **212**. For example, the pass-through device **205** can support a communication protocol between the shared backup power supply **210** and the loads **260**. Also, the node **222** can include a controller **207**, such as a storage array controller. A storage array controller can be a device which manages data storage among physical disk drives within the computing system **200**.

Signal and control lines can connect the shared backup power supply **210** to the chassis/host controller **212** and to the MUX **214**. The MUX **214** and the chassis/host controller **212** can be coupled to the node **222** via a signal line **216**. The signal line **216** can provide for the install, registering, data, and clocking of the node **222** with the chassis/host controller **212**.

In some examples, the control logic (not illustrated in FIG. 2) can be coupled to the node **222** via a control signal and power line **226**. For example, the node **222** can provide a signal to the control signal and power lines **226** and the signal lines **216** when data is to be backed up to non-volatile memory. The control signal and power lines **226** and the signal lines **216** also couple the chassis/host controller **212** to the node **222** and the control logic.

The pass-through device **205** can allow the node **222** to communicate with the shared backup power supply **210** and vice versa. For instance, the pass-through device **205** can be a BMC unit. The BMC unit can enable the shared backup power supply **210** to send a request to the loads **260**, using the pass-through device **205**. In response to receiving the request from the shared backup power supply **210**, the loads **260** can send a response to the shared backup power supply **210**, using the pass-through device **205**. For instance, the shared backup power supply **210** can request, from the loads **260**, identification of loads to be protected by the shared backup power supply **210**. In other words, the shared backup power supply **210** can query the loads **260**. The loads **260** can respond to the shared backup power supply **210** with a message identifying a subset of the loads **260** that are to be protected by the shared backup power supply **210**. In other words, the loads **260** can respond to the query from the shared backup power supply. In some examples, the loads **260** can respond to the query during startup of the node **222**.

Further, in response to the shared backup power supply **210** receiving the response from the loads **260**, the shared backup power supply **210** can communicate backup power information to the subset of the loads, using the pass-through device **205**. The backup power information which is communicated from the shared backup power supply **210** to the subset of the loads can be information pertaining to the amount, rate, and/or timing of backup power to be provided to the loads **260** and/or the subset of the loads.

For instance, the backup power information can include a message indicating that the shared backup power supply **210** has adequate backup power for the subset of loads. Additionally and/or alternatively, the backup power information

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can include a message to enable a first portion of loads among the subset of loads and to disable a second portion of loads among the subset of loads. For example, if the response from the loads **260** to the shared backup power supply **210** indicates that load **260-2** will use 18 watts of power, and load **260-4** will use 120 watts of power, the backup power information communicated from the shared backup power supply **210** to the loads **260** can include a message to load **260-2** to remain disabled while load **260-4** is enabled and completes backup processes. As used herein, a disabled load refers to a load that is powered off and/or in a retaining mode. Also, as used herein, an enabled load refers to a load that is powered on and/or has write-back cache turned on.

The backup power information can also include a message from the shared backup power supply **210** to the subset of loads indicating a sequence of delivery of backup power to the subset of loads during backup. For instance, if load **260-2** consumes an amount of power exceeding a threshold level of power over a threshold period of time, the shared backup power supply **210** can keep loads **260-1**, **260-3**, and **260-4** disable (e.g., off) until load **260-2** has done its backup. Once load **260-2** has completed the backup process, the shared backup power supply **210** can communicate to load **260-1** that it can turn on and backup data, but loads **260-3** and **260-4** can remain disabled. In this manner, the shared backup power supply **210** can communicate to the loads **260** that load **260-2** will receive backup power first, followed by load **260-1**, followed by load **260-3** and load **260-4**. Examples are not limited to this particular sequence, however, and the shared backup power supply **210** can communicate, to the loads **260** during backup, alternative sequences by which the loads are to receive battery backup power.

In some examples, as discussed further in relation to FIG. 3, the shared backup power supply **210** can communicate to other shared backup power supplies. For example, the shared backup power supply **210** can communicate information about the charge status of the shared backup power supply **210** and/or the output status of the shared backup power supply **210** to other shared backup power supplies.

For example, the system **200** can include a plurality of parallel shared backup power supplies, including shared backup power supply **210**. Each of the parallel shared backup power supplies can communicate to one another and different backup power supplies can distribute backup power to the loads **260**.

As used herein, a charge status can refer to the charge level of the shared backup power supply, the presence of the shared backup power supply itself, and/or the presence of charging errors in the shared backup power supply. Also, as used herein, an output status can refer to the presence of and/or amount of battery backup power output from the shared backup power supply.

The backup power control module **206** can have instructions stored in a non-transitory storage medium (e.g., memory resource **108**) to determine how many loads among the plurality of loads **260** are to be protected with backup power. In order to provide adequate backup power to the loads **260**, the shared backup power supply **210** can identify how many loads among the loads **260** are to be protected by the shared backup power supply **210**, and how much power they will use for a backup process.

In accordance with examples of the present disclosure, the shared backup power supply **210** can communicate with each of the plurality of loads **260**, through the pass-through device **205**, and receive a response directly from the plural-

ity of loads **260** rather than waiting for a BMC unit to correlate messages to the shared backup power supply **210**. Using the backup power control module **206**, the shared backup power supply **210** can directly determine how many loads among the loads **260** are to receive backup power.

Also, using the communication module **204**, the shared backup power supply **210** can communicate backup power information from the shared backup power supply **210** and the loads **260** using a multi-master communication protocol. In a number of examples, the shared backup power supply **210** can communicate with the loads **260** in band. As used herein, communicating in band refers to communicating messages, information, and/or data in the main data stream for the system.

In some examples, the backup power control module **206** and/or the communication module **204** can identify error information to and/or from the shared backup power supply **210** and the loads **260**. The shared backup power supply **210** can identify a failure as the failure occurs using the backup power control module **206**, and can notify the loads **260** of the failure using the communication module **204**. In other words, the communication module **204** can communicate a failure notice to each of the plurality of loads during runtime. As used herein, a failure refers to an error and/or malfunction in the shared backup power supply in which the shared backup power supply **210** is incapable of providing backup battery power to the loads **260**. Also, a failure notice refers to a communication identifying a failure. In some examples, the shared backup power supply **210** can identify the failure prior to the failure occurring. In response to the shared backup power supply **210** identifying the failure, the shared backup power supply **210** can communicate to the loads **260** instructing the loads to turn off their write back cache because the shared backup power supply **210** will be turning off the backup power supplied. In such an instance, the shared backup power supply **210** can communicate to the loads directly, using the communication module **204** and through the pass-through device **205**. In this sense, the shared backup power supply **210** can communicate directly with the loads **260**, without waiting for the pass-through device **205** to initiate communication.

As described herein, the pass-through device **205** can allow the shared backup power supply **210** to communicate with the loads **260** directly. While examples described herein include the shared backup power supply **210** communicating with the loads **260** to identify loads for backup and identify failures, examples are not so limited. The shared backup power supply **210** can communicate additional information to and from the loads, such as reactions, and in a parallel system as described in FIG. 3, the shared backup power supply **210** can communicate with other shared backup power supplies to distribute power to the loads **260**.

FIG. 3 illustrates a detailed block diagram of an example of a system **300** for backup power communication according to the present disclosure. Although illustrated in simplified form in FIG. 3, it is to be understood that shared backup power supplies **310-1**, **310-2**, and **310-3** each include the components of the shared backup power supply **210** illustrated in FIG. 2.

As illustrated in FIG. 3, the system **300** can include a plurality of nodes, where each node has a separate shared backup power supply. For example, the system **300** can include a plurality of nodes **322-1**, **322-2**, **322-3** (herein referred to as nodes **322**), and each of the nodes **322** can have an associated shared backup power supply. That is, node **322-1** can be associated with shared backup power supply **1** (e.g., **310-1**), node **322-2** can be associated with

shared backup power supply **2** (e.g., **310-2**), and node **322-3** can be associated with shared backup power supply **3** (e.g., **310-3**).

As described in relation to FIGS. 1 and 2, each of the nodes **322** can have a plurality of components. For instance, each of the nodes **322** can have an MLB (e.g., **328-1**, **328-2**, and **328-3**), each of the plurality of MLBs can include pass-through devices (e.g., **305-1**, **305-2**, **305-3**, referred to as pass-through devices **305**), and each of the plurality of MLBs can include a storage array controller (e.g., **307-1**, **307-2**, **307-3**, referred to as storage array controllers **307**). While FIG. 3 illustrates a “controller” in each node, each controller is interpreted to be a storage array controller. While FIG. 3 shows three (3) nodes **322-1**, **322-2**, and **322-3**, the system **300** can have fewer or more nodes than illustrated. Similarly, each of the plurality of nodes **322** can include a plurality of loads (e.g., loads **360-1**, **360-7**, hereinafter referred to as loads **360**). For example, the nodes **322** may host six (6) or more loads (e.g., two loads per node).

In some examples, more or fewer loads can be hosted in a node, and each of the nodes **322** can host a different number of loads. For instance, node **322-1** can host four (4) loads (e.g., two storage controllers and two storage devices) while node **322-2** can host six (6) loads (e.g., three storage controllers and three storage devices). In this manner, each of the plurality of nodes **322** can include a plurality of loads, and the plurality of loads within a node can have a shared backup power supply.

In some examples, a multi-master communication protocol supported by the pass-through devices **305** can enable a first shared backup power supply to send a charge status message to a second shared backup power supply. For example, shared backup power supply **1** **310-1** can send a message to shared backup power supply **2** **310-2**, through the pass-through devices **305-1** and **305-2**, indicating that shared backup power supply **1** **310-1** has adequate power to provide backup power to loads **360-1** and **360-2**.

The shared backup power supplies **310-1**, **310-2**, and **310-3** can also determine which loads among the loads **360** are to receive backup power from which shared backup power supply. For example, shared backup power supply **1** **310-1** can provide backup power to loads **360-1** and **360-4**, while shared backup power supply **2** **310-2** can provide backup power to loads **360-2** and **360-5**, and shared backup power supply **3** **310-3** can provide backup power to loads **360-6** and **360-7**. In this manner, the shared backup power supplies **310** can communicate with other shared backup power supplies, using the pass-through devices **305**, in order to distribute power to the loads **360**.

FIG. 4 illustrates a flow diagram of a communication path **401** between a plurality of loads and a shared backup power supply according to the present disclosure. Particularly, FIG. 4 illustrates a flow diagram of communication between a plurality of storage controllers and storage devices and the shared backup power supply **410**. FIG. 4 illustrates the communication between these components, and is not intended to illustrate structural components, as such components are illustrated in FIGS. 1-3.

As discussed in relation to FIGS. 1-3, a node (e.g., node **222** illustrated in FIG. 2, and the plurality of nodes **322** illustrated in FIG. 3) can host a plurality of loads. For example, as illustrated in FIG. 4, the node can include four NVDIMMs (**420-1**, **420-2**, **420-3**, and **420-4**, herein referred to as NVDIMMS **420**), and three storage devices (e.g., **430-1**, **430-2**, and **430-3**, herein referred to as storage devices **430**), such as solid state drives (SSDs) and/or hard disc drives (HDDs). The communication path **401** can also

include the pass-through device **405** (e.g., pass-through device **105** illustrated in FIG. 1, pass-through device **205** illustrated in FIG. 2, and pass-through device **305** illustrated in FIG. 3) as well as the shared backup power supply **410** (e.g., shared backup power supply **110** illustrated in FIG. 1, and shared backup power supplies **310** illustrated in FIG. 3).

The shared backup power supply **410** can communicate with the loads, such as the storage devices **430**, through the pass-through device **405**, to determine how many (e.g., a subset) of the loads are to be protected with backup power. In some examples, this determination may be performed during startup of the node.

As illustrated by FIG. 4, using the multi-master communication protocol supported by the pass-through device **405**, the shared backup power supply **410** can communicate with the storage devices **430** to determine that particular storage devices (e.g., storage device **430-1** and storage device **430-2**) are to be protected with backup power from the shared backup power supply **410**. Once the shared backup power supply **410** determines the number of loads that are to be protected with backup power, the shared backup power supply **410** can be configured with the correct number of loads (e.g., the subset of the loads). Similarly, the shared backup power supply **410** can determine the charge level that will be used to provide backup power to the loads and/or a subset of the loads.

In response to identifying the loads which are to be protected with backup power from the shared backup power supply **410**, the shared backup power supply **410** can communicate information back to the loads, using the multi-master communication protocol supported by the pass-through device **405**. For example, the shared backup power supply **410** can communicate the state of the shared backup power supply **410** to the loads. In another example, the shared backup power supply **410** can communicate to the loads, the duration of time until the shared backup power supply **410** is adequately charged (e.g., fully charged). As used herein, an adequate charge of the shared backup power supply refers to a level of power stored in the shared backup power supply that is capable of providing backup power supply to a specified number of loads.

Also, as described in relation to FIG. 1, FIG. 2, and FIG. 3, the shared backup power supply **410** can communicate to the loads a sequence in which backup power will be provided to the loads. For instance, in response to identifying that storage devices **430-1** and **430-2** are to be protected by the shared backup power supply **410**, shared backup power supply **410** can communicate, to storage devices **430-1** and **430-2**, a sequence in which battery backup will be provided. Upon removal of the primary power supply, and in response to receiving the sequence from the shared backup power supply **410**, storage device **430-1** can remain powered off while shared backup power supply **410** provides backup power to storage device **430-2**. Storage device **430-2** can then move data from the cache memory in storage device **430-2** to non-volatile memory, such as in NVDIMMs **420**. Once storage device **430-2** has completed backup procedures, shared backup power supply **410** can communicate, through the pass-through device **405** and using the multi-master communication protocol, an instruction for storage device **430-2** to power off and storage device **430-1** to power on. Storage device **430-1** can then move data from the cache memory in storage device **430-1** to non-volatile memory, such as in NVDIMMs **420**.

In some examples, the shared backup power supply **410** can act as a storage division management device, and can communicate information to the loads using the pass-

through device **405** during runtime. For example, the shared backup power supply **410** can communicate setup information to NVDIMMs **420**, to express bay system components, and/or browsing system components. Additionally and/or alternatively, the shared backup power supply **410** can communicate, to the loads, error and/or failure information. For instance, prior to or concurrently with identifying a failure in the shared backup power supply **410**, the shared backup power supply can communicate, through the pass-through device **405**, information identifying the failure and instructing storage devices **430** to turn off their write back cache. Similarly, the shared backup power supply **410** can communicate with the storage devices **430**, through the pass-through device **405**, and notify the storage devices **430** when they can turn back on their write back cache.

In the present disclosure, reference is made to the accompanying drawings that form a part hereof, and in which is shown by way of illustration how a number of examples of the disclosure may be capable of being practiced. These examples are described in sufficient detail to enable those of ordinary skill in the art to practice the examples of this disclosure, and it is to be understood that other examples may be capable of being used and that process, electrical, and/or structural changes may be capable of being made without departing from the scope of the present disclosure.

The figures herein follow a numbering convention in which the first digit corresponds to the drawing figure number and the remaining digits identify an element or component in the drawing. Elements shown in the various figures herein may be capable of being added, exchanged, and/or eliminated so as to provide a number of additional examples of the present disclosure. In addition, the proportion and the relative scale of the elements provided in the figures are intended to illustrate the examples of the present disclosure, and should not be taken in a limiting sense.

As used herein, "logic" is an alternative or additional processing resource to perform a particular action and/or function, etc., described herein, which includes hardware, e.g., various forms of transistor logic, application specific integrated circuits (ASICs), etc., as opposed to computer executable instructions, e.g., firmware, etc., stored in memory and executable by a processor. Further, as used herein, "a" or "a number of" something can refer to one or more such things. For example, "a number of widgets" can refer to one or more widgets. Also, as used herein, "a plurality of" something can refer to more than one of such things.

The above specification, examples and data provide a description of the method and applications, and use of the system and method of the present disclosure. Since many examples may be capable of being made without departing from the spirit and scope of the system and method of the present disclosure, this specification merely sets forth some of the many possible example configurations and implementations.

What is claimed is:

1. A non-transitory machine readable medium storing instructions executable by a processing resource of a shared backup power supply to:

send, by the shared backup power supply to a plurality of loads of a node, a request using and through a pass-through device supporting a multi-master communication protocol permitting the shared backup power supply and the pass-through device to, as master devices, both control the loads as slave devices to the master drives;

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receive, by the shared backup power supply, a response from the plurality of loads, the responses identifying a subset of the plurality of loads that are to be protected by the shared backup power supply; and

communicate by the shared backup power supply to the subset, backup power information using the multi-master communication protocol on the pass-through device.

2. The medium of claim 1, wherein the backup power information includes a message indicating that the shared backup power supply has a threshold level of power to supply backup battery power for the subset.

3. The medium of claim 1, wherein the backup power information includes a message to enable a first portion of loads among the subset of loads and to disable a second portion of loads among the subset of loads as the shared backup power supply charges.

4. The medium of claim 1, the shared backup power supply to send messages to other shared backup power supplies indicating at least one of:

a charge status of the shared backup power supply; and  
an output status of the shared backup power supply.

5. The medium of claim 1, wherein the backup power information includes a message from the shared backup power supply to the subset indicating a sequence of delivery of backup power to the subset during backup.

6. The medium of claim 5, wherein the backup power information includes a message from the shared backup power supply to the subset instructing a second load among the subset of loads to remain in a retaining mode until a first load among the subset of loads has completed a data backup.

7. The medium of claim 1, wherein the pass-through device is a baseboard management controller (BMC) communicatively connected to both the shared backup power supply and the loads of the node.

8. A method comprising:

sending, by a shared backup power supply to a plurality of loads of a node, a request using and through a pass-through device supporting a multi-master communication protocol permitting the shared backup power supply and the pass-through device to as master devices both control the loads as slave devices to the master drives;

receiving, by the shared backup power supply, a response from the plurality of loads, the responses identifying a subset of the plurality of loads that are to be protected by the shared backup power supply; and  
communicating, by the shared backup power supply to the subset, backup power information using and through the multi-master communication protocol on the pass-through device.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the backup power information includes a message indicating that the shared backup power supply has a threshold level of power to supply backup battery power for the subset.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein the backup power information includes a message to enable a first portion of loads among the subset of loads and to disable a second portion of loads among the subset of loads as the shared backup power supply charges.

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11. The method of claim 8, the shared backup power supply to send messages to other shared backup power supplies indicating at least one of:

a charge status of the shared backup power supply; and  
an output status of the shared backup power supply.

12. The method of claim 8, wherein the backup power information includes a message from the shared backup power supply to the subset indicating a sequence of delivery of backup power to the subset during backup.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the backup power information includes a message from the shared backup power supply to the subset instructing a second load among the subset of loads to remain in a retaining mode until a first load among the subset of loads has completed a data backup.

14. The method of claim 8, wherein the pass-through device is a baseboard management controller (BMC) communicatively connected to both the shared backup power supply and the loads of the node.

15. A backup power supply comprising:

communication hardware to communicate with a plurality of loads of a node and with a pass-through device supporting a multi-master communication protocol permitting the shared backup power supply and the pass-through device to as master devices both control the loads as slave devices to the master drives;

a processing resource to:

send, to the plurality of loads of a node, a request using and through the pass-through device;

receive a response from the plurality of loads, the responses identifying a subset of the plurality of loads that are to be protected by the shared backup power supply; and

communicate, to the subset, backup power information using and through the multi-master communication protocol on the pass-through device.

16. The backup power supply of claim 15, wherein the backup power information includes a message indicating that the shared backup power supply has a threshold level of power to supply backup battery power for the subset.

17. The backup power supply of claim 15, wherein the backup power information includes a message to enable a first portion of loads among the subset of loads and to disable a second portion of loads among the subset of loads as the shared backup power supply charges.

18. The backup power supply of claim 15, the shared backup power supply to send messages to other shared backup power supplies indicating at least one of:

a charge status of the shared backup power supply; and  
an output status of the shared backup power supply.

19. The backup power supply of claim 15, wherein the backup power information includes a message from the shared backup power supply to the subset indicating a sequence of delivery of backup power to the subset during backup.

20. The backup power supply of claim 19, wherein the backup power information includes a message from the shared backup power supply to the subset instructing a second load among the subset of loads to remain in a retaining mode until a first load among the subset of loads has completed a data backup.

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